(b) what is the progress of the work as on 1st November, 1999;

(c) when this work would be completed; and

(d) whether Government would up-grade the Regional Sub-Centre of SAI at Guwahati to a full-fledged Regional Centre; considering the importance of Guwahati in the North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The decision to set up a Regional Sub-Centre at Guwahati was taken in December, 1987 and the same was established in 1988.

(b) and (c) While the work has been completed, additional sports infrastructure has been created, from time to time, to promote sports in the Region.

(d) There is, at present, no proposal to up-grade the Regional Sub-Centre at Guwahati.

Policy to Give Priority to Sports

†422. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of CULTURE YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India are formulating a policy to give priority to sports, on the line of the countries of the world with small population;

(b) if so, what has been the budget provision for the last three years alongwith the efforts made in this regard; and

(c) whether Government have received any proposal for the development of Prithviraj Chauhan Khel Nagar, Ajmer; if so, what action was taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE, YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) A new National Sports Policy is being formulated.

(b) The budget provision earmarked during the last three years are as under:

Year Rupees in crores

	Plan	Non-Plan
1996-97	55.50	17.25
1997-98	75.66	1035
1998-99	100.66	9.72

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

The National Sports Policy, formulated in 1984, sought to fulfil the objectives of broad-basing of sports and achieving excellence. The Policy is proposed to be revised keeping in view; inter-alia, the various emerging trends and requiremetns.

(c) No, Sir.

Protection of Environment and Forests in North-East

423. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the circumstances and basic data base on which the Supreme Court directed banning of marketing of forest produce from the North East;

(b) the action taken and proposed to be taken in line with the aforesaid directive, including those for utilisation of non-timber forest resources, eco-protection and massive afforestation; and

(c) the schemes implemented during the Eighth Five year Plan and proposed to be taken up during the Ninth Five Year Plan towards protection and development of forests and environment in the NE region including conservation of bio-diversity, wild life and improvement of wild life sancturaries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Hon'ble Supreme Court has not banned the marketing of forest produce from the North-Eastern States.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The information about the scheme implemented during the Eighth Five Year Plan and proposed to be taken up during the Ninth Five Year Plan for protection and development of forests and environment in North-East Region including conservation of bio-diversity, wildlife and improvement of wildlife sancturaries is' given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Centrally Sponsored Schemes implemented during the 8th Plan and proposed to be taken up during the 9th Plan towards protection and development of forests and environment in the North-East Region.

1. Area oriented Fuelwood and Fodder Project Scheme.
2. Integrated Afforestation & Eco-Development Project.
3. Non-timber Forest Produce Scheme.
4. Grant-in-aid to voluntary agencies.
5. Seed development schemes.